



Rec'd PCT/PTO 09 JUN 2005

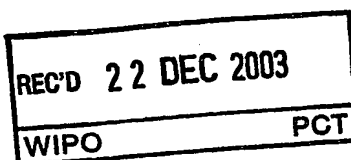
10038212

PCT / IB 03 / 06014



08 DEC 2003 INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The Patent Office
Concept House
Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales
NP10 8QQ



I, the undersigned, being an officer duly authorised in accordance with Section 74(1) and (4) of the Deregulation & Contracting Out Act 1994, to sign and issue certificates on behalf of the Comptroller-General, hereby certify that annexed hereto is a true copy of the documents as originally filed in connection with the patent application identified therein.

In accordance with the Patents (Companies Re-registration) Rules 1982, if a company named in this certificate and any accompanying documents has re-registered under the Companies Act 1980 with the same name as that with which it was registered immediately before re-registration save for the substitution as, or inclusion as, the last part of the name of the words "public limited company" or their equivalents in Welsh, references to the name of the company in this certificate and any accompanying documents shall be treated as references to the name with which it is so re-registered.

In accordance with the rules, the words "public limited company" may be replaced by p.l.c., plc, P.L.C. or PLC.

Re-registration under the Companies Act does not constitute a new legal entity but merely subjects the company to certain additional company law rules.

PRIORITY DOCUMENT
SUBMITTED OR TRANSMITTED IN
COMPLIANCE WITH
RULE 17.1(a) OR (b)

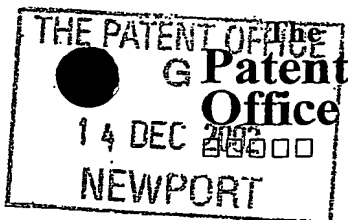
Signed

He Behen

Dated 31 October 2003

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

An Executive Agency of the Department of Trade and Industry



1/77

Request for grant of a patent

(See notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)

The Patent Office
Cardiff Road
Newport
Gwent NP10 8QQ

Your reference

PHNL021417

14 DEC 2002

Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0229210.0

16DEC02 E771153-1 D03008

P01/7700 0.00-0229210.0

Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.
GROENEWOUDSEWEG 1
5621 BA EINDHOVEN
THE NETHERLANDS
07419294001

Patents ADP Number (*if you know it*)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

THE NETHERLANDS

Title of the invention

METHOD OF MANUFACTURE OF A TRENCH SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

Name of your agent (*if you have one*)

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (*including the postcode*)

Philips Intellectual Property and Standards
Cross Oak Lane
Redhill
Surrey RH1 5HA
08359655001

Patents ADP number (*if you know it*)

If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (*if you know it*) the or each application number

Country

Priority Application number
(*if you know it*)

Date of filing
(*day/month/year*)

If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing
(*day/month/year*)

Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (*Answer "Yes" if:*

YES

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
 - b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
 - c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
- See note (d))

- Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form.
- Do not count copies of the same document.

Continuation sheets of this form

Description	6
Claims(s)	3
Abstract	1
Drawings	2 only <i>SH</i>

If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item:

Priority Documents

- Translations of priority documents
- Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (*Patents Form 7/77*)
- Request for preliminary examination and search (*Patents Form 9/77*)
- Request for substantive examination (*Patents Form 10/77*)
- Any other documents (*Please specify*)

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature *D.J. Sharrock* Date 13 DEC 02

Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom 01293 815399 (Daniel Sharrock)

Warning

If an application for a patent has been filed, the Comptroller of the Patent Office will consider whether publication or communication of the invention should be prohibited or restricted under Section 22 of the Patents Act 1977. You will be warned if it is necessary to prohibit or restrict your invention in this way. Furthermore, if you live in the United Kingdom, Section 23 of the Patents Act 1977 stops you from applying for a patent abroad without first getting written permission from the Patent Office unless an application has been filed at least 6 weeks beforehand in the United Kingdom for a patent for the same invention and either no direction prohibiting publication or communication has been given, or any such direction has been revoked.

as

If you need help to fill in this form or you have any questions, please contact the Patent Office on 0645 500505.

Write your answers in capital letters using black ink or you may type them.

If there is not enough space for all the relevant details on any part of this form, please continue on a separate sheet of paper and write "see continuation sheet" in the relevant part(s). Any continuation sheet should be attached to this form.

If you have answered "Yes" Patents Form 7/77 will need to be filed.

Once you have filled in the form you must remember to sign and date it.

For details of the fee and ways to pay please contact the Patent Office.

DESCRIPTION

**METHOD OF MANUFACTURE OF A
TRENCH SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE**

5

The invention relates to the method of manufacture of a semiconductor device incorporating a trench, particularly a trench MOSFET (Metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistor).

10

An example of a prior art trench semiconductor structure is illustrated in Figure 2. An n-type drain layer 4 is provided over an n+ substrate 2, and a p-type body layer 6 is provided on the drain layer 4. A trench 8 extends through the body layer 6 as far as the drain layer 4, and includes a conductive gate 10 insulated from the body layer by a gate insulator 12. N+ source diffusions 14

15

are provided adjacent to the trench.

In use, a voltage is applied to the gate electrode to control a channel 16 extending in the body layer 6 adjacent to the trench 8 between the source 14 and drain 4.

20

Further details of prior art trench structures are provided in US 6,331,467 to Brown et al, assigned to the US Philips Corporation and incorporated herein by reference.

25

A problem with this structure is the capacitance between the gate and drain, since the gate at the bottom of the trench is very close to the drain. This capacitance can give rise to problems, and in particular to the Miller effect. The capacitance should therefore be minimised.

30

A known approach to reducing this capacitance is described in US 6,444,528 to Murphy, which suggests providing a thicker insulator at the bottom of the trench. US 6,444,528 describes forming a second trench at the bottom of the trench and growing selective oxide in the second trench to form this thicker insulator.

However, this approach is complex to manufacture and there is accordingly a need for a simpler approach to manufacturing such structures.

According to the invention there is provided a method of manufacturing a trench gate semiconductor device comprising the steps of: providing a silicon device body having a first major surface, the silicon device body having a drain region of a first conductivity type and a body region over the drain region;
5 forming a trench extending downwards into the silicon device body from the first major surface, the trench having sidewalls and a base; depositing a nitride liner within the trench to protect the sidewalls; forming a polysilicon plug at the base of the trench; thermally oxidising the device to oxidise the polysilicon at
10 the bottom of the trench to form an oxide plug at the base of the trench; and depositing conductive material within the trench to form a gate.

The thick oxide region or plug at the base of the trench can greatly reduce the gate-drain capacitance and hence the Miller effect of the finished device. The approach according to the invention is relatively straightforward to
15 manufacture.

The nitride liner ensures that there is essentially no oxidation of the side walls. In contrast, a layer of oxide is not generally capable of preventing oxidation - the oxide layer can simply become thicker. Polymer or polyimide are worse, since these are not generally compatible with the oxidation
20 processes used to oxidise polysilicon and they may even burn under oxidising conditions.

The lack of oxidation of the sidewalls ensures that the trench does not need to be any wider than the minimum necessary to provide room for the oxidised sidewalls at this stage of the process. Thus, the trench can be
25 narrower than would be the case if an oxide liner was used instead of the nitride.

In embodiments, the polysilicon formed at the base of the trench is doped. By forming doped polysilicon in the bottom of the trench and then oxidising it a thick region at the bottom of the trench can readily be formed.
30 Doped polysilicon is relatively straightforward to oxidise.

The polysilicon may be formed doped, or alternatively the polysilicon may doped after being deposited, for example by diffusion from a suitable source such as a POCl_3 source.

5 The step of depositing polysilicon at the base of the trench may include depositing polysilicon over the first major surface including the trench and then etching back the polysilicon to remove the polysilicon from the first major surface leaving the polysilicon at the base of the trench.

In embodiments, the method additionally includes the step of thermally oxidising the side wall of the trench to form an oxide before depositing the nitride liner and the step of etching away the nitride liner to expose the gate oxide before depositing conductive material within the trench to form a gate.

Alternatively, the gate oxide may be formed after the step of forming the oxide plug. In a less preferred approach, the nitride liner may form the gate oxide.

15 The oxidation step used to oxidise the polysilicon may be low temperature wet oxidation, at a temperature range of 650°C to 850°C , preferably 700°C to 800°C . This low temperature process minimises the stress to the structure during manufacture. Indeed, a particular benefit of using doped polysilicon is that it is readily oxidised by such a process.

20 Following the step or steps of forming the oxide at the bottom of the trench and the gate oxide the trench may be filled with doped polysilicon to form a gate.

In another aspect, there is provided a trench MOSFET comprising: a drain region of first conductivity type; a body region over the drain region; a trench extending from a first major surface through the body region; source regions laterally adjacent to the trench at the first major surface; thermal gate oxide on the side walls of the trench; a gate electrode in the trench insulated from the body region by the gate oxide; characterised by a thick oxide plug formed of oxidised doped polysilicon at the base of the trench extending into the drain region.

30 As explained above, such a structure is relatively straightforward to manufacture and exhibits a reduced Miller effect.

For a better understanding of the invention, embodiments will now be described, purely by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

5 Figure 1 shows the steps in a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to a first embodiment of the invention; and

Figure 2 shows a prior art method of manufacturing a semiconductor device.

The diagrams are purely schematic and not to scale.

10 Referring to Figure 1a, an n-type epilayer 4 is grown on an n+ type semiconductor substrate 2. A low doped p-body layer 6 is then formed on the epilayer 4, for example by ion implantation. Alternatively, the ion implantation step to form layer 6 may be carried out after the formation of the trench, or the
15 layer 6 may also be grown epitaxially. This structure will be known as the "silicon device body" 1 in the following - the term is not intended to refer to just the body layer 6. The silicon device body 1 has opposed first 22 and second 23 major surfaces.

It should be noted that where spatial terms such as "on", "over" and
20 "downwards" are used in the present specification, these are intended to be relative to the device, and do not imply any particular orientation of the device in space.

Hard mask 20 is then formed by depositing oxide layer 20 on the first major surface 22 of the silicon device body 1 and patterning the oxide layer 20
25 to have an opening 24. Trench 8 is then etched through the opening into the n-layer 4. This trench etch may be carried out by any known process. The trench has sidewalls 28 and a base 29, as shown in Figure 1a.

A thermal oxidation process is then carried out to form thermal oxide 32 on the sidewalls 28 and base 29 of the trench.

30 Next, a dielectric liner 50 of nitride is deposited on the sidewalls 28 and base 29 of the trench after the trench is formed.

Following this, polysilicon 52 is deposited over the whole of the first major surface. The polysilicon 52 is then doped using diffusion from a POCl_3 source, to give the structure shown in Figure 1b.

5 An etch back is then performed to remove the doped polysilicon 52 from the first major surface, leaving only a plug 26 at the base 29 of the trench. This results in the structure of Figure 1c.

A low temperature wet oxidation process is then performed at 700°C to 800°C to oxidize the polysilicon plug to form an oxide plug 30 at the base of the trench. The nitride liner 50 prevents oxide from being formed on the side
10 wall 28 of the trench. The oxide plug 30 at the bottom of the trench can be thick since the increased ease of oxidation of doped polysilicon allows a significant thickness of oxide to be formed in a reasonable time frame.

Next, the nitride liner 50 and thermal oxide 32 are etched away, in the region above the plug 30, and thermal oxidation carried out to result in a gate
15 oxide 12 on the side walls above the plug 30. In an alternative approach, the thermal oxide 32 is not etched away but used itself as the gate oxide.

The next step is to fill the trench with polysilicon 34 acting as a gate, giving rise to the structure shown in Figure 1d.

The remainder of the processing can be carried out in a conventional
20 manner, as is well known to the man skilled in the art, to result in a device schematically illustrated in Figure 1e. A source diffusion 14 is implanted at the first major surface at the lateral edges of the trench.

Source 36, gate 38 and drain 40 contacts are formed. They are schematically illustrated in Figure 1e, the drain contact 40 being in this
25 example a back contact on the second major surface 23. The source contact 36 contacts the n^+ source diffusion 14.

The semiconductor is then packaged and contacted to form the finished semiconductor device as is known.

This process provides a ready means of manufacturing a trench
30 MOSFET with a thick plug at the bottom of the trench to reduce capacitance between the gate 10 and the drain 2.

From reading the present disclosure, other variations and modifications will be apparent to persons skilled in the art. Such variations and modifications may involve equivalent and other features which are already known in the design, manufacture and use of trench semiconductor devices and which may be used in addition to or instead of features described herein. Although claims have been formulated in this application to particular combinations of features, it should be understood that the scope of disclosure also includes any novel feature or any novel combination of features disclosed herein either explicitly or implicitly or any generalisation thereof, whether or not it mitigates any or all of the same technical problems as does the present invention. The applicants hereby give notice that new claims may be formulated to any such features and/or combinations of such features during the prosecution of the present application or of any further applications derived therefrom.

For example, in the embodiment described the source diffusion 14 is formed after the trench 8. However, as the skilled person will realise, it is also possible to form the source diffusion 14 and then etch the trench through the source diffusion. Other variations in trench etch manufacturing will be known to those skilled in the art and such variations may also be used.

The skilled person will realize that the invention may be used in a variety of different semiconductor structures. For example, although the epilayer 4 has been described as an n-epilayer, the body layer 6 as a p-type layer, and the source diffusion 14 as an n-doped region, any or all of these layers may be either p-or n type. A drift region, i.e. a low doped part of the drain epilayer 4 may be used, as is known. Other layers, diffusions and contacts may be included if required. The device may be p- or n- type.

CLAIMS

1. A method of manufacturing a trench gate semiconductor device comprising the steps of:

5 providing a silicon device body having a first major surface, the silicon device body having a drain region of a first conductivity type and a body region over the drain region;

forming a trench extending downwards into the silicon device body from the first major surface, the trench having sidewalls and a base;

10 depositing a nitride liner within the trench to protect the sidewalls;

forming a polysilicon plug at the base of the trench;

thermally oxidising the device to oxidise the polysilicon at the bottom of the trench to form an oxide plug at the base of the trench; and

depositing conductive material within the trench to form a gate.

15

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the step of forming a polysilicon plug at the base of the trench forms a doped polysilicon plug at the base of the trench.

20

3. A method according to claim 2 wherein the step of depositing a doped polysilicon plug at the base of the trench includes depositing polysilicon over the first major surface including the trench and then etching back the doped polysilicon to remove the doped polysilicon from the first major surface leaving the polysilicon at the base of the trench.

25

4. A method according to claim 2 wherein the step of depositing doped polysilicon includes depositing undoped polysilicon and then carrying out a diffusion process to dope the undoped polysilicon.

30

5. A method according to any preceding claim further comprising the steps of:

thermally oxidising the side wall of the trench to form an oxide layer before depositing the nitride liner over the oxide layer;

etching away the nitride liner and the oxide layer after oxidising the doped polysilicon; and

5 thermally oxidising the sidewalls to form a thermal oxide gate insulator before depositing conductive material within the trench to form a gate.

6. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the step of forming the trench includes providing a mask on the first major surface defining
10 an opening and etching through the opening a trench extending downwards from the first major surface.

7. A method according to claim 6 wherein the mask is an oxide hard mask.

15 8. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the step of depositing conductive material to form a gate includes filling the trench with polysilicon to form a gate.

20 9. A method according to any preceding claim further comprising forming a source implant of first conductivity type at the first major surface adjacent to the trench and forming source, gate and drain electrodes attached to the source implant, the gate and the drain region respectively to complete the trench gate semiconductor device.

25 10. A trench MOSFET comprising:
a drain region of first conductivity type;
a body region over the drain region;
a trench extending from a first major surface through the body region;
30 source regions laterally adjacent to the trench at the first major surface;
thermal gate oxide on the side walls of the trench;

a gate electrode in the trench insulated from the body region by the gate oxide;

characterised by a thick oxide plug formed of oxidised doped polysilicon at the base of the trench extending into the drain region.

ABSTRACT

**METHOD OF MANUFACTURE OF A
TRENCH SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE**

5

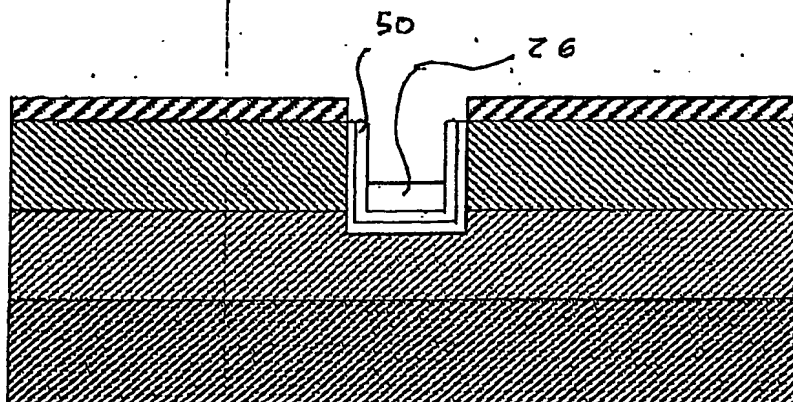
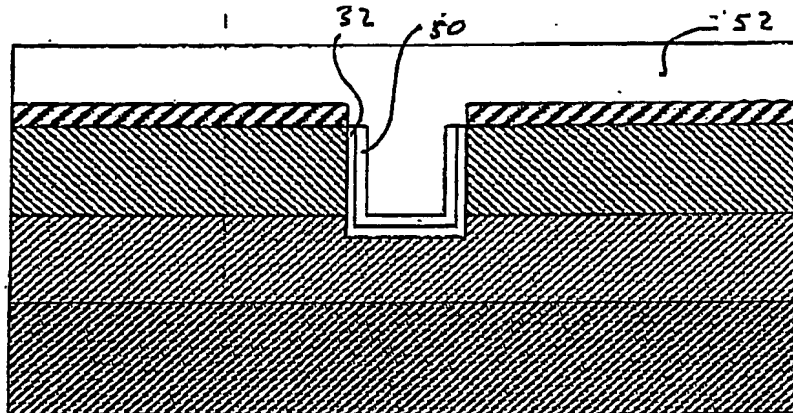
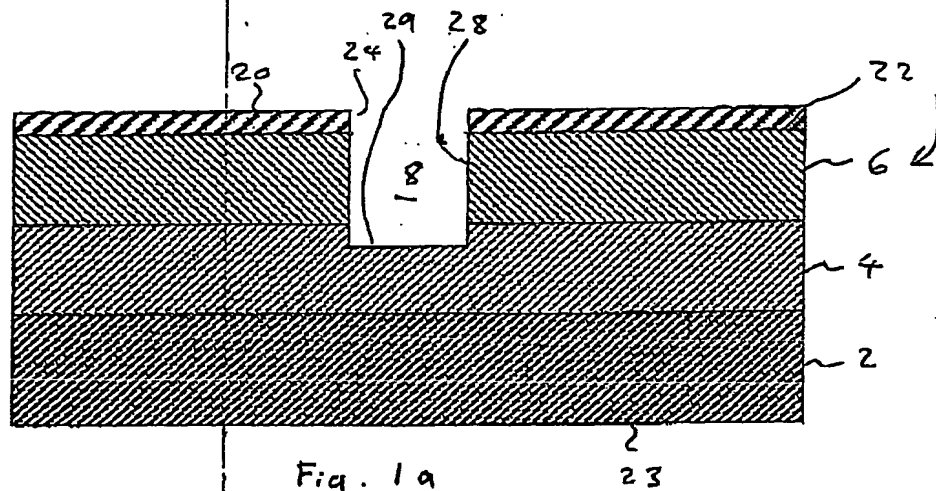
A method of making a trench MOSFET includes forming a nitride liner 50 on the sidewalls 28 of a trench and a plug of doped polysilicon 26 at the bottom of a trench. The plug of polysilicon 26 may then be oxidised to form a thick oxide plug 30 at the bottom of the trench whilst the nitride liner 50 protects the sidewalls 28 from oxidation. This forms a thick oxide plug at the bottom of the trench thereby reducing capacitance between gate and drain.

10

[Figure 1b]

15

1/2



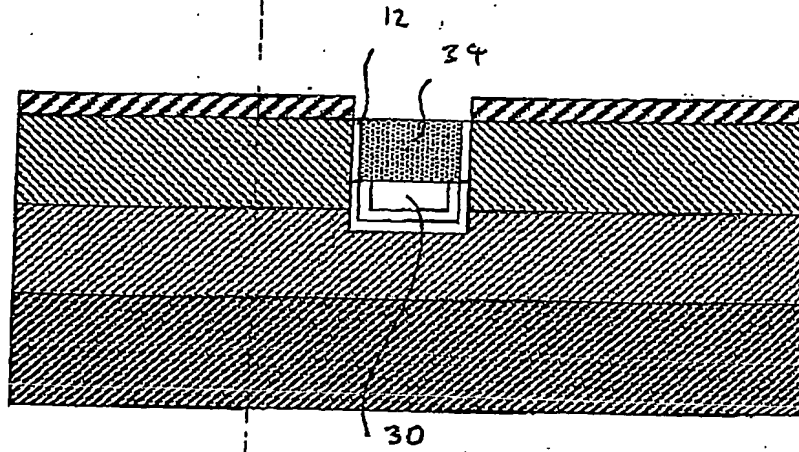


Fig. 1d

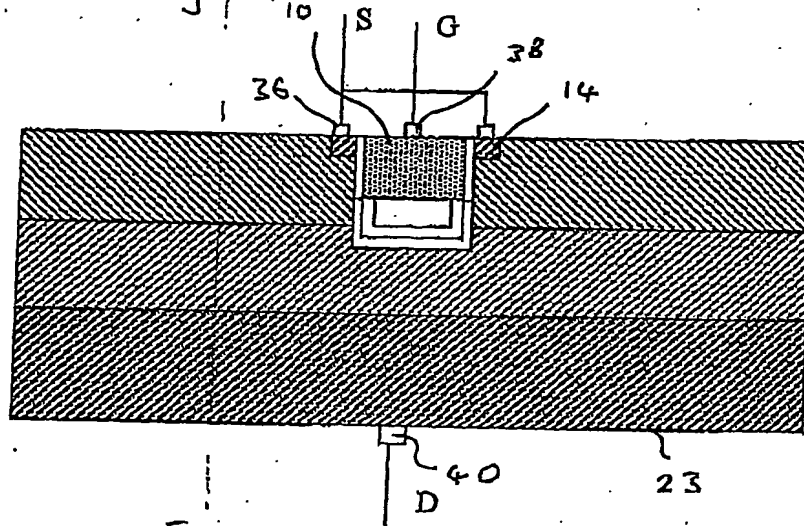


Fig. 1e

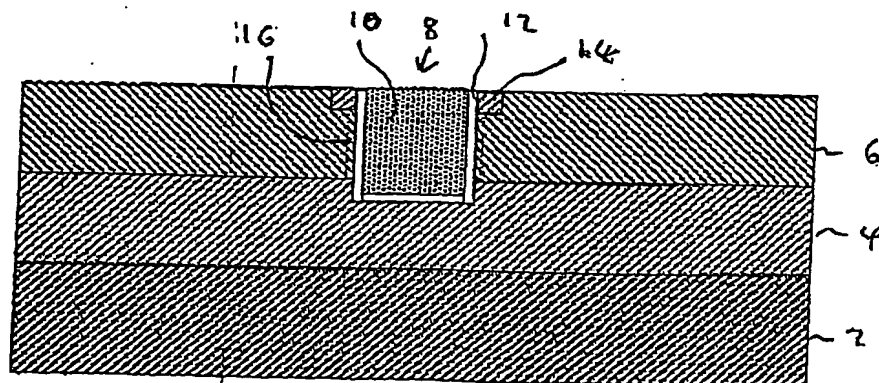


Fig. 2

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☐ BLACK BORDERS
- ☐ IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- ☐ FADED TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☒ BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- ☐ COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS
- ☐ GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS
- ☒ LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
- ☐ REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY
- ☐ OTHER: _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.